

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were pending in this application prior to this amendment.

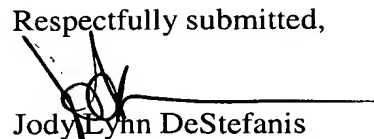
Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 12-19, 21, 22, 24, and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Bahjat (US 3,864,667). Claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bahjat in view of Wooh (US 6,309,609). Claims 4, 7, 9-11, 20, 23, and 26-27 were objected to but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 17 to include the limitations of claim 2 and 18, respectively, and the limitations of allowable claims 7 and 23, respectively. Those claims and intervening claims 5 and 6, and 21 and 22, respectively, are canceled. The remaining claims depend on the new claims 1 and 17 and thus include allowable subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and further examination of the application as amended.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the present application and the amended claims are in proper condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly requested. If the Examiner is contemplating any action other than allowance of all pending claims, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's representative, Jody Lynn DeStefanis, at (203) 431-5505.

Applicants do not believe any charges are due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to credit/further charge Deposit Account No. 19-0615, if required. Two copies of this sheet are attached.

Respectfully submitted,


Jody Lynn DeStefanis
Registration No. 44,653

Schlumberger Doll Research Center
36 Old Quarry Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877-4108
Phone: (203) 431-5505
Fax: (203) 431-5640
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